

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007** at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor B. Audley  
Councillor Mrs C.A. Bartlett  
Councillor C.R. Bright  
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow  
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP  
Councillor M. Hadley  
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh  
Councillor M.W. Pratt  
Councillor Mrs. A. Turner  
Councillor W.S. Trite

The Town Mayor welcomed Revd. Will Watts, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

162. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Tyrer.

163. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the  
Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 be approved as a  
correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No.154, and subsequent queries raised with Purbeck District Council, the Clerk reported that the Dog Control Order would be further considered at the Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the  
Council held to discuss planning and other matters  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 be approved as a correct record  
and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the  
Council held to discuss policy and resources matters  
on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be approved as a correct  
record and signed.

Councillor Bright referred to Minute No. 2, and made the proposal, which was seconded by Councillor Trite:-

That Standing Order No.17 be suspended to allow further consideration of Minute No. 2.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and TWO AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was DECLARED CARRIED.

Further consideration was then given to the amount of precept to be levied upon Purbeck District Council for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007. During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to issues that had been identified subsequent to the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007, which had resulted in corrective adjustment within the Parks and Operations Department. This was reflected in the revised Estimates, produced and circulated, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Further debate followed, during which some Members expressed concern that a reduction in the estimated balances may impact on the Council's ability to maintain the town's assets.

It was then proposed by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Trite:-

That the precept upon Purbeck District Council for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 be £343,500 – an increase of 4.9%.

Councillor Bright requested that a named vote be taken.

The Proposition was then put to the Meeting and voting recorded as follows:-

**In favour:**

The Town Mayor (Councillor Suttle) and Councillors Audley, Bright, Mrs. Farrow, Mrs.Gainsborough, Mrs.Marsh, Pratt, Mrs.Turner and Trite.

**Against:**

Councillors Mrs.Bartlett and Hadley.

The Proposition was declared CARRIED, with NINE Members voting IN FAVOUR and TWO AGAINST.

- (d) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Turner, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 2 (a), it was reported that, following discussions with representatives from Dorset County Council, the recommendation that the section of Shore Road between the Mowlem and the Clock Shelter remain closed 24 hours per day between 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September could be introduced for 2007. The proposed experimental scheme to re-route traffic away from Shore Road between 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September required technical problems to be resolved and could not be implemented for 2007.

Reference was then made to Minute No. 2 (b) and the Resolution to endorse the recommendation to amend rather than revoke the Traffic Regulation Order in respect of campervans. Following discussions with representatives from Dorset County Council and the widely differing

public views that had already been expressed, it was noted that no amendments would be made to the existing Traffic Regulation Order during the current year. The proposed changes would need to be advertised and public responses sought before the implementation of any changes to the Order.

164. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 be accepted.

165. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Conveniences Best Value Review Working Group held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

166. **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Management Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

167. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Having updated those present on matters relating to Shore Road and campervan issues, the Town Mayor had no further announcements to make this month.

168. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Over 4,000 holiday guides had been despatched from the TIC during February.
- (b) Bookings for National Express remained buoyant, and the facility to book full ferry crossings, as well as day trips, on the Condor was now available at the TIC.
- (c) The TIC would again be promoting "Fair Trade" by staging a display and providing free tasting of "Fair Trade" products during the forthcoming fortnight. Local businesses that serve "Free Trade" products would be highlighted, and recipes would be available free of charge.
- (c) Training of staff using the Destination Management System would shortly be completed, but the lengthy task of entering data into the system was still ongoing.
- (d) Once again, Easter Chicks, knitted by Mrs. Hancock, were on sale at the TIC. This year, the proceeds would be donated to Swanage Hospital.

169. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Repairs and minor refurbishment works had been carried out to the toilet blocks in Victoria Avenue Car Park, Shore Road, Battlegate, Burlington Chine and the Heritage Centre.
- (b) A programme of repairs, repainting and general maintenance works was currently being undertaken in readiness for the forthcoming season. This included rubbish bins, bench seats, beach bungalows and preparation of the flower beds etc.
- (c) Repairs had been carried out to leaking water mains at the Boat Park and Shore Road toilets.
- (d) Refurbishment works to the Shelter on Shore Road and the Town Hall clock were continuing.
- (e) Health and Safety and Fire Risk assessments were nearing completion.
- (f) Damage, vandalism and graffiti had been sustained in many areas during the past month, including the following:-  
Herston, Victoria Avenue and Shore Road toilets, Prospect nursery, The Spa, play areas in King George's Field and the Recreation Ground, and the shelters on Shore Road and Sandpit Field.
- (f) 20 rose bushes had been removed from Godlingston Cemetery.
- (g) The culprit who had repeatedly caused damage to the Downs and Journeys End with his 4 x 4 vehicle had been identified and successfully prosecuted.

170. **2007 EVENTS**

(a) **Summer Fete**

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was submitted on behalf of Swanage Hospital requesting the use of Sandpit Field on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007 for their Annual Summer Fete.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Trite, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the request be granted, subject to no disturbance being caused to residents through loud music.

(b) **Swanage Rowing Regatta**

A letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 was submitted from the Secretary of the Swanage Rowing Regatta requesting the usual facilities for the Rowing Regatta on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bright, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the request be granted, subject to a designated area being suitably marked and adequate marshalling being provided.

171. **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

(a) **Life Education Centres, Dorset**

A letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was submitted from Life Education Centres, Dorset outlining their work in delivering their health and drug prevention education programmes to primary school children in Swanage, and seeking a financial contribution towards the cost of providing this service.

During the ensuing discussion, Members acknowledged the work of Life Education Centres, Dorset, but felt that this organisation should be encompassed under the umbrella of Dorset County Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To suggest that an approach for funding be made to Dorset County Council.

(b) **South Purbeck Task Group**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being the Chairman of the South Purbeck Task Group, and as her interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Farrow also declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the South Purbeck Task Group and left the Meeting during the debate.

A letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was submitted from the Treasurer of the South Purbeck Task Group seeking a financial contribution towards the cost of providing transport for local children to visit "Streetwise" in Bournemouth.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were fully supportive of this very worthwhile cause, but were mindful of the financial obligations of the Council at the present time. It was noted that funds may be available for such a purpose from Purbeck District Council and it was agreed to suggest that an approach be made to that authority.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a financial contribution of £50.00 be made.

(c) **Purbeck Film Festival**

A letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was submitted from the Festival Chairman seeking a financial contribution towards the cost of staging the 2007 Purbeck Film Festival.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That the request be not granted.

Upon being put to the Meeting, TEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

172. **MEMORIAL SEAT**

Further to Minute No. 159 (g) of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007, a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was submitted from Mr. P. Mullane outlining a recent disturbance that had occurred late at night in the vicinity of the Town Hall, and requesting that the recently re-instated memorial seat be again removed.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were made aware that the seat was well used by elderly people during the daytime, and the practicalities of removing the seat at night were considered. The design and weight of the seat was not conducive to this suggestion, and it was agreed that alternative lightweight designs be investigated.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the memorial seat be removed, pending further enquiries regarding the provision of an alternative seat.

173. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

A letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 was submitted from the Senior Road Safety Officer of Dorset County Council stating that Town, Parish and Borough Councils were now able to purchase and deploy their own speed indicator devices (at a cost of approximately £3,550 per unit).

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That no action be taken in the matter.

174. **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

It was reported that a draft copy of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan was available in the Town Hall, and Members were reminded that comments and observations must be submitted to Dorset County Council prior to the expiry of the consultation period on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

175. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of January 2007 were submitted for information.

176. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 11, 11a and 11b, amounting to £118,203.45, £32,304.97 and £53,491.87 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

177. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

The following matters were highlighted:-

- (a) Updating of the Council's Website.
- (b) Evening meetings.
- (c) Councillors Induction Packs.

178. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

179. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Holiday Park – Sale of Caravan**

The Clerk updated those present on matters relating to court proceedings in respect of the sale of a caravan. Members acknowledged the advice received from the Council's legal advisers, and endorsed the proposed course of action aimed at resolving the matter.

(b) **Private Beach Hut Sites**

Having regard to Members' interests, it was AGREED:-

That this matter be deferred for consideration later in the Meeting.

180. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK**

(a) **Options Appraisal**

Further to Minute No. 144 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007, the Clerk updated Members on matters arising, following the suspension of contractual relationships with the consultants engaged to undertake the Options Appraisal of the Holiday Park. It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with the Council's legal advisers for Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

(b) **Bars and Catering Concession**

Following a recent meeting with the lessee, the Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the bars and catering concession at the Holiday Park. The position was noted.

Proposals, including the cancellation of a debtors invoice to the value of £3,877 in lieu of repairs and replacements costs met directly by the contractor, were endorsed. The proposed schedule for the repayment of other outstanding sums was acknowledged.

181. **DE MOULHAM TRUST**

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007, it was AGREED:-

That the "Scheme of Delegation" be referred for consideration at the next meeting of the De Moulham Trust to be held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

182. **PRIVATE BEACH HUT SITES**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Bright declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a private beach hut site licensee, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

The Clerk updated those present on legal issues relating to the private beach hut site licence, and other unresolved issues.

Following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Mrs. Marsh be given delegated powers to act in the matter.

The Town Mayor and Councillor Mrs. Turner then declared their personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of business connections with some site licensees, and left the Meeting during the debate.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

The Clerk reported that, following a challenge made by an individual private site beach hut owner, the Members given delegated authority to resolve the matter had recommended that the advice of the Council's legal advisers ( Minute No. 121 (e) of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006 refers) be upheld. This recommendation had been actioned and communicated to the individual concerned.

---